

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT



SOUTHEAST ASIA  
ACTIVITY REPORT

SELECTED TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFILTRATION  
COMPENDIUM

LAOS, PANHANDLE

NPIC/R-39/68

MARCH 1968

SUMMARY NO 78

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## PREFACE

This report is a summary of selected information on transportation, infiltration, and military activity in southeast Asia as identified by NPIC. Activity in support of communist forces in Laos, North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and Cambodia is emphasized.

Items are generally numbered and arranged according to location from north to south. Annotated maps of varying scales have been included to assist the reader in locating the item. Selected photographs are included whenever scale and interpretability permit.

Missions, mission dates, frames and NPIC cable and briefing board references are listed after each item, as appropriate.

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## INTRODUCTION

An unusually high level of road construction and related activity has been recently observed in the communist controlled areas of the Laotian Panhandle and the border region of South Vietnam. New by-passes, new road extensions, and reactivated roads highlight the activity. New truck parks, a new trellis under construction, and active transshipment points are also observed.

25X1D In addition to the activity described in the following eight items and in Summary No. 76 (Laos/South Vietnam Border Area Near Route 9), two other areas of road activity are of importance. The first consists of newly observed vehicle tracks on Routes 8 and 81 between the limits of photographic coverage near Nape and a point 12 nautical miles (nm) west of Lak Sao.\* Intermittent road construction, consisting of clearing and trail widening, is observed for approximately nine nm from Lak Sao to 18-15N 104-53E [REDACTED]. The second area of activity is in the Tri-border region where Laos Route 110 has been extended through the northeastern tip of Cambodia into South Vietnam. This serviceable road connects with South Vietnam Route 512, thereby providing a motorable communist logistics road net to U.S. installations in the Dak To area. Road clearing operations are also observed extending south-southeast for 14 nm from this Route 110 extension, crossing the Cambodia/South Vietnam border at [REDACTED], a point 28 nm west of Kontum, South Vietnam.\*\*

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1. New Road Alignment, Route 23 Area, Laos	4
2. Truck Park Complex on New Route 92 By-pass, Laos	10
3. Trellis Construction, Route 922, Laos	14
4. Road Construction, A Chau Area, South Vietnam/Laos Border	18
5. Transshipment Points, Se Kong Water-borne Supply Route, Laos	22
6. By-pass Completion and River Crossing Status, Ban Bac, Laos	26
7. Road Construction, Route 165 Area, Laos	30
8. New By-passes, Route 96/110 Area, Laos	34

\* NPIC Cable Cite 3043, DTG 170144Z, Feb 68, Ser F00626

\*\*NPIC Cable Cite 3126, DTG 280146Z, Feb 68

NPIC Briefing Board L-4881 (2-68)

Photographic Interpretation Memorandum on Increased Communist Activity in the Dak To Area, South Vietnam, NPIC/R-36/68

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1. New Road Alignment, Route 23 Area, Laos

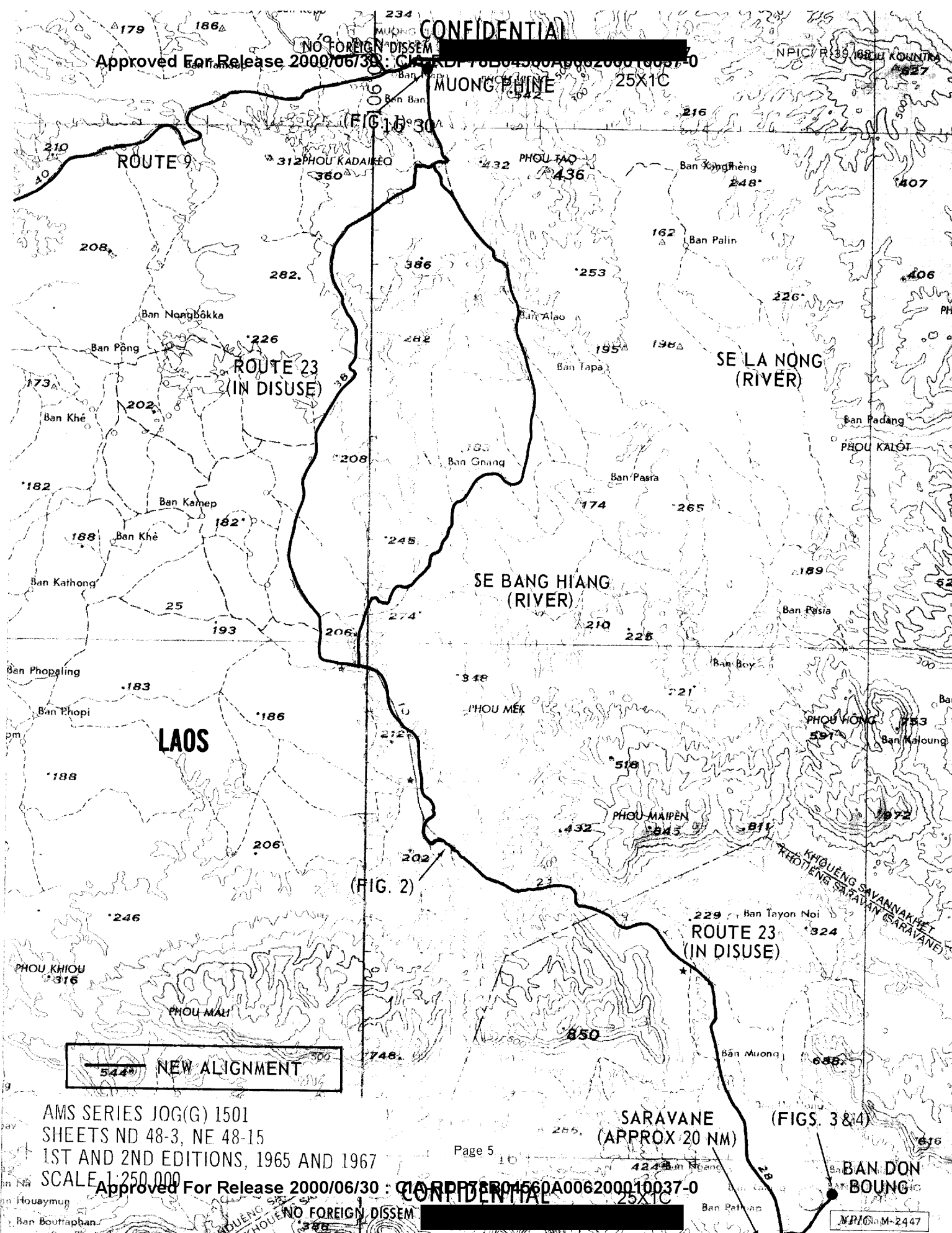
Recent vehicle tracks are observed south of Muong Phine for approximately 30 nm, generally paralleling Route 23. The road, previously in disuse for approximately two years, is in an area that has been partially under Royal Laotian control.

Lightly-used vehicle tracks extend from Route 9 at 16-31N 106-01E (Figure 1), generally paralleling Route 23 to 16-28N 106-01E ([REDACTED]), 25X1D where they continue south under heavy tree canopy and pass through Ban Alao at 16-24N 106-04E [REDACTED], to a probable ferry crossing at 16-19N 106-03E ([REDACTED]) over the Se Bang Hiang (river). The tracks continue south-southwest, rejoin Route 23 at 16-14N 105-59E [REDACTED], then 25X1D generally follow Route 23 to an apparent terminus at 16-08N 106-02E [REDACTED] (Figure 2), 33 nm northwest of Saravane. From this point, well-used trails extend southeast toward Saravane. 25X1D

A strongpoint at 15-15N 106-13E [REDACTED], near Ban Don Boung, was destroyed between [REDACTED] (Figures 3 and 4). Vehicle tracks are observed between Ban Don Boung and Saravane.

[REDACTED]  
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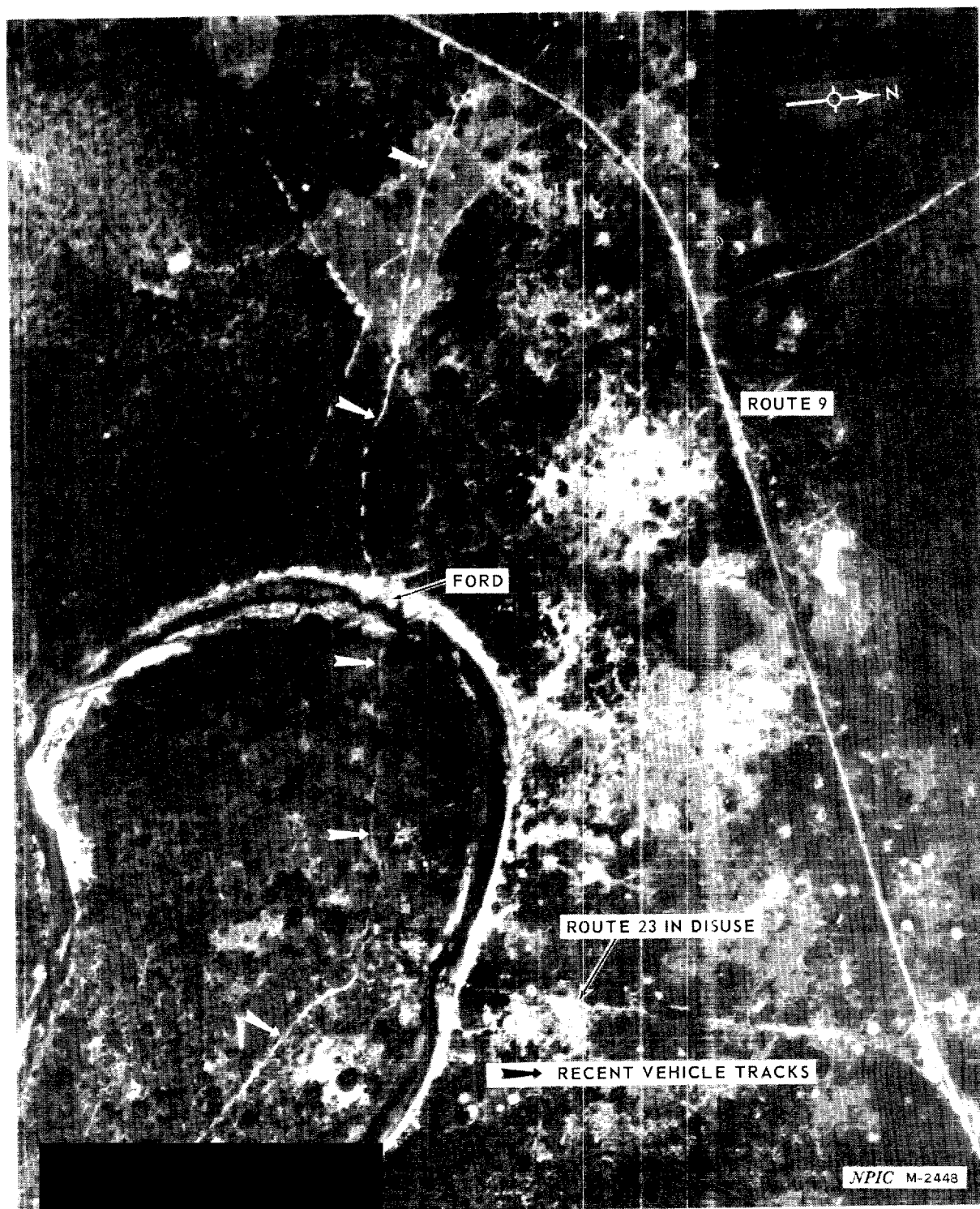


FIGURE 1. RECENT VEHICLE TRACKS, MUONG PHINE, LAOS

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FIGURE 2. RECENT VEHICLE TRACKS, ROUTE 23, LAOS

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25X1D



25X1D

FIGURE 3. ACTIVE STRONGPOINT, BAN DON BOUNG AREA, LAOS

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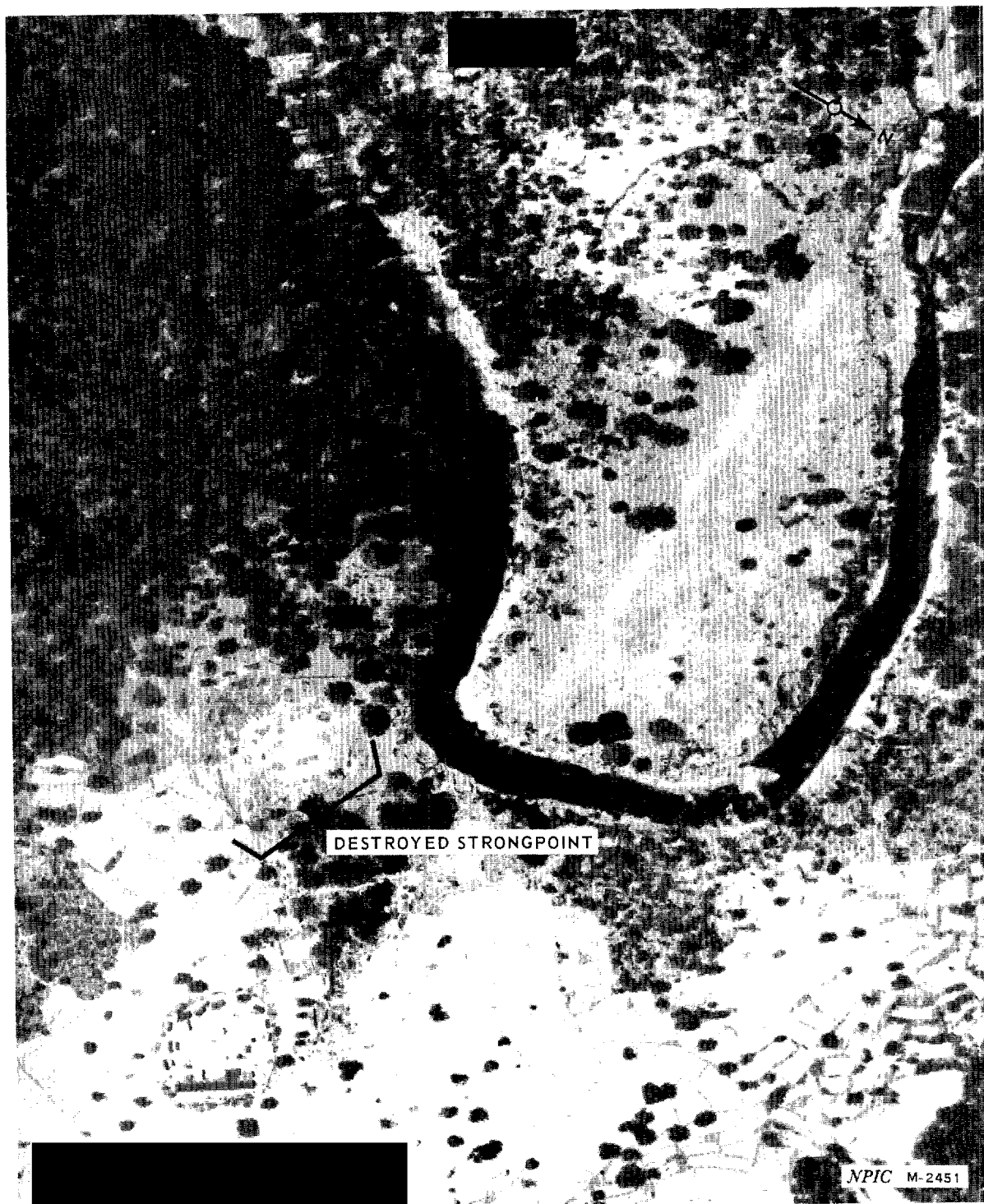


FIGURE 4. DESTROYED STRONGPOINT, BAN DON BOUNG AREA, LAOS

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## 2. Truck Park Complex on New Route 92 By-Pass, Laos

An extensive truck park complex is observed west of Route 92 on a by-pass that is under construction. The complex, consisting of five loop roads and several link service roads, is located at 16-07N 106-40E

25X1D [REDACTED] (Figure 5). A small truck park is located approximately one nm northeast of the main complex at 16-08N 106-41E [REDACTED] 25X1D

25X1D The by-pass road under construction extends southwest from Route 92 at 16-08N 106-41E [REDACTED] where it turns generally eastward and terminates at 16-04N 106-40E [REDACTED], 0.5 nm west of Route 92.

25X1D

A new truck park, consisting of a loop road and two short link service roads, is located 0.5 nm east of Route 92 at 16-13N 106-41E [REDACTED]. 25X1D  
An access road connects this truck park to Route 92 at [REDACTED] 25X1D

The new open-wire telecommunications trace, extending from the Sepone area to the Ban Bac area (Summary No. 76), is also depicted on the accompanying map and in Figure 5.

25X1D

[REDACTED]  
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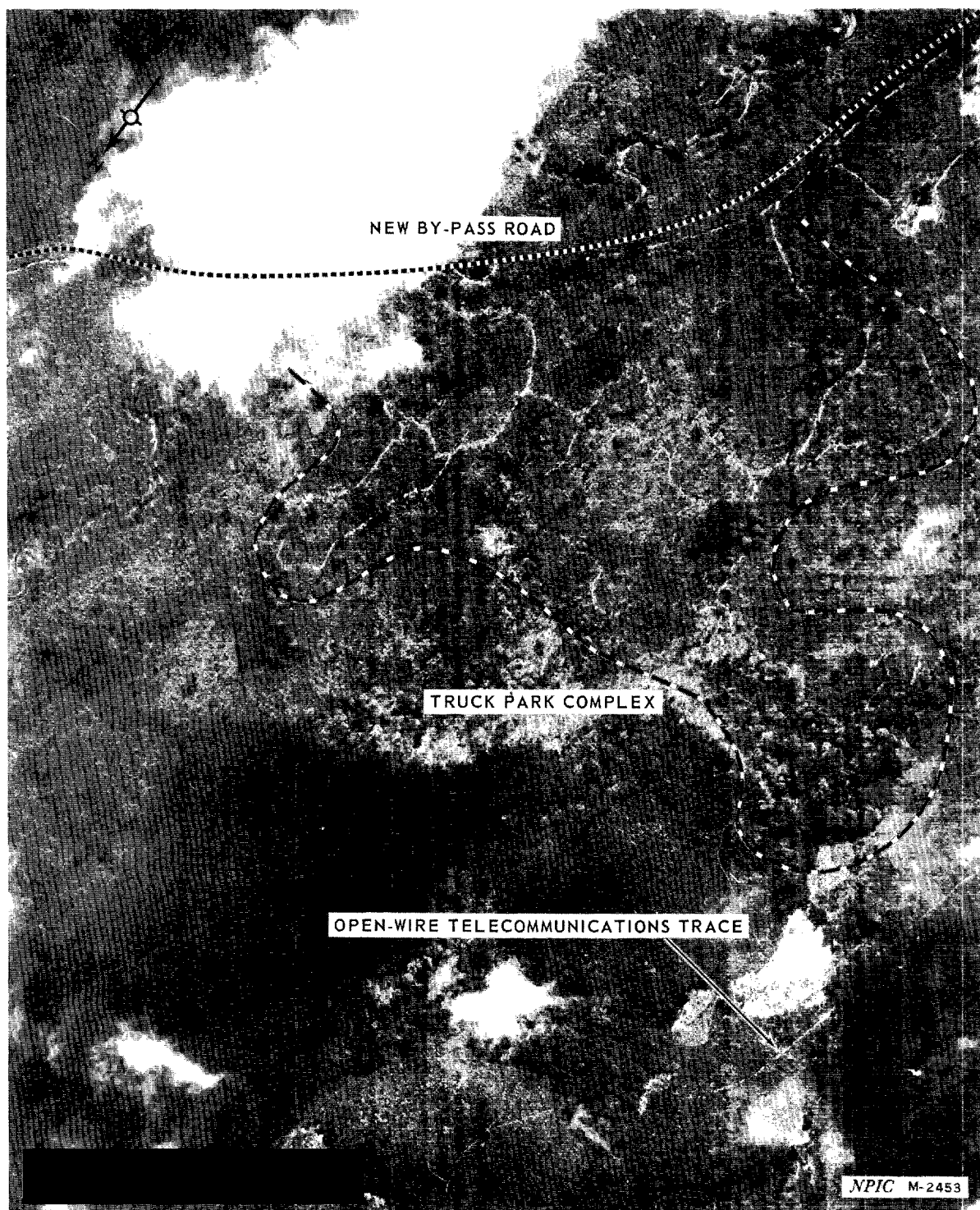


FIGURE 5. TRUCK PARK COMPLEX, ROUTE 92 BY-PASS AREA, LAOS

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25X1C

25X1C

[REDACTED]

25X1D

[REDACTED]  
NPIC Cable Cite 3057, DTG 192242Z, Feb 68, Ser F00627

STATINTL

[REDACTED]

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4. Road Construction, A Shau Area, South Vietnam/Laos Border

25X1D Two areas of road construction are observed in communist controlled territory near A Shau. The first is the extension of Route 548 southeast of A Shau into Laos. (Route 548 in South Vietnam becomes Route 922 in Laos northwest of the A Shau Valley and is unnumbered in Laos south of the A Shau Valley.) This new road, showing evidence of light vehicular traffic, extends from a point near the previous [REDACTED] construction terminus at 16-05N 107-21E [REDACTED] crosses the Laos/South Vietnam border, to the limit of photographic coverage at 16-00N 107-25E [REDACTED]. The road fords the Tam Rang (stream) (Figure 9) at 16-02N 107-24E [REDACTED] in Laos. 25X1D

25X1D

The second road, in an early stage of construction on [REDACTED] now has vehicle tracks from Route 548 near Ta Bat at 16-14N 107-16E [REDACTED] to the present construction terminus at 16-15N 107-17E [REDACTED] (Figure 10). This construction is proceeding toward Route 547, which extends to the Hue area. 25X1D

25X1D

[REDACTED]  
NPIC Cable Cite 2988, DTG 130258Z, Feb 68, Ser F00613

NPIC Cable Cite 3127, DTG 280226Z, Feb 68

NPIC Briefing Board L-4835 (2-68)

NPIC Briefing Board L-4880 (2-68)

Photographic Interpretation Memorandum on increased Communist Activity in the A Shau Valley, South Vietnam, NPIC/R-37/68

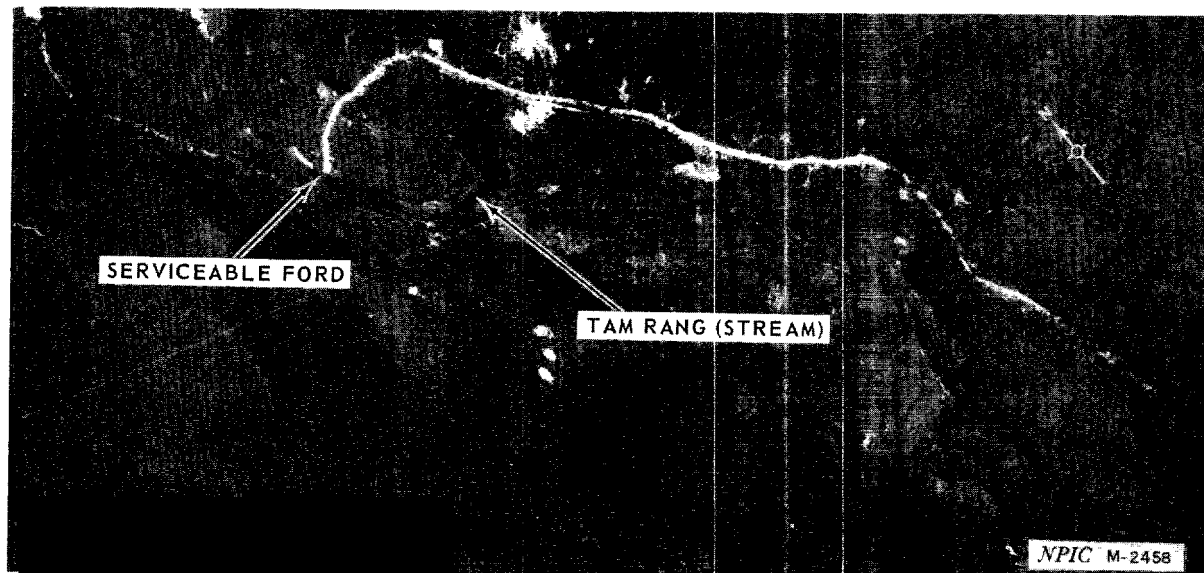


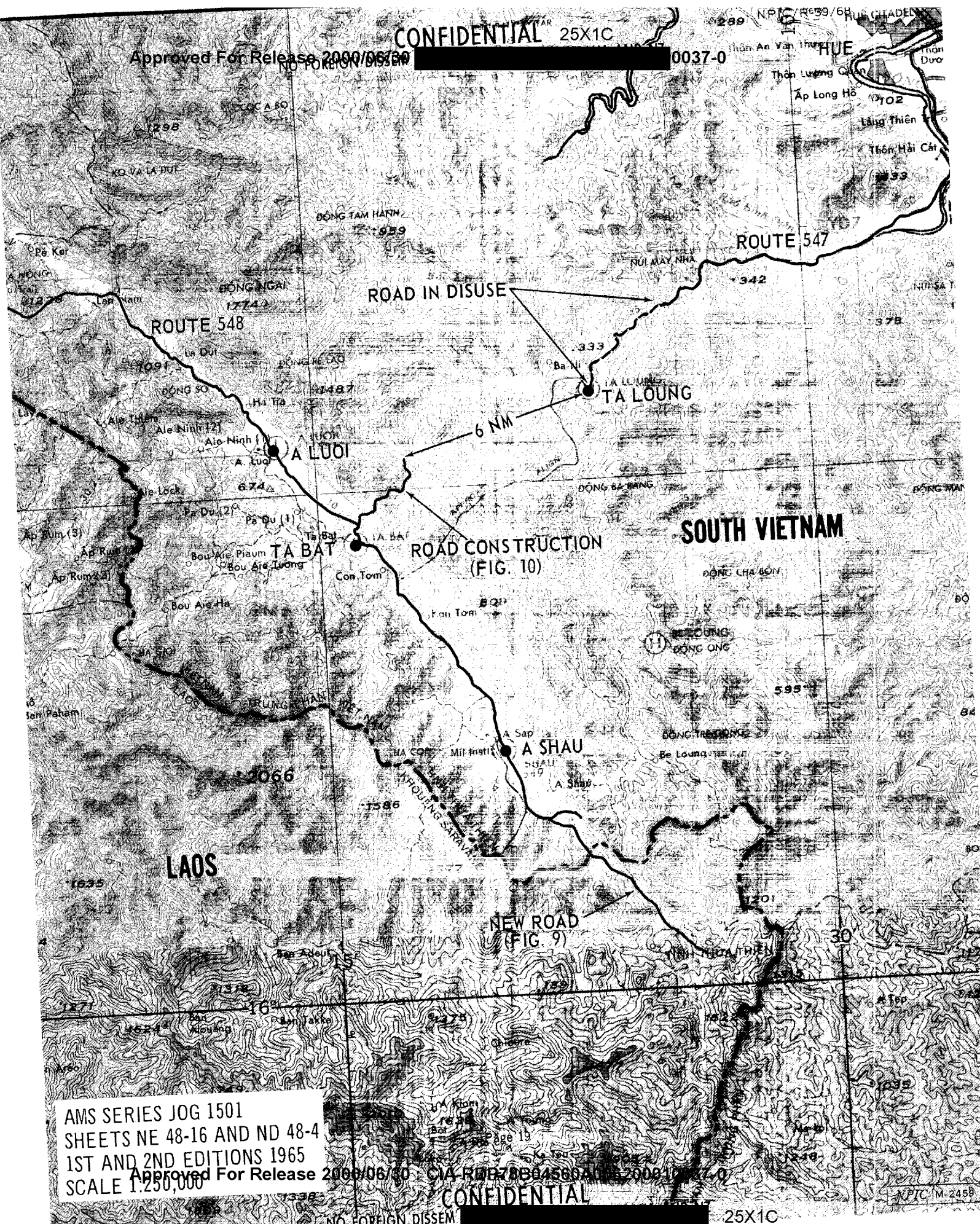
FIGURE 9. NEW ROAD, LAOS/SOUTH VIETNAM BORDER AREA



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FIGURE 10. NEW ROAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION, TA BAT AREA, SOUTH VIETNAM

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 NO FOREIGN DISSEM [REDACTED] 25X1C

5. Transshipment Points, Se Kong Water-borne Supply Route, Laos

Use of the Se Kong (river) water-borne supply route is evidenced by a new transshipment point near Ban Bac and a reactivated transshipment point at the western terminus of Route 964; however, no river craft were observed on the day photo mission of [REDACTED] 25X1D

Vehicle tracks extend south of Ban Bac on Route 92 to the new transshipment point, which consists of several well-used turning loops near the east bank of the Se Kong at 15-46N 106-46E [REDACTED] (Figure 11). 25X1D

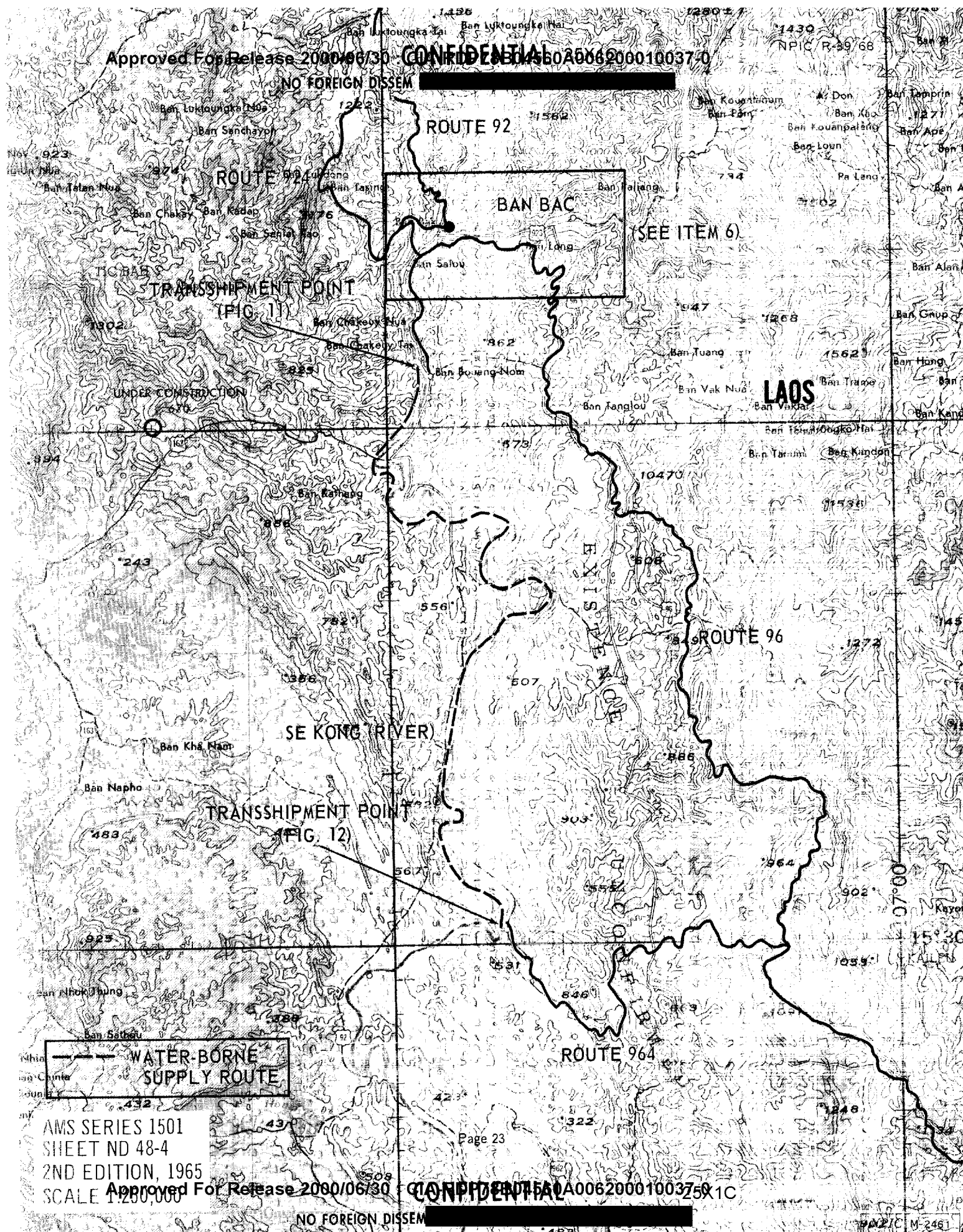
The reactivated transshipment facility at the western terminus of Route 964 evidences recent vehicle tracks that extend to the river bank and a turning loop near the eastern bank of the Se Kong at 15-30N 106-48E [REDACTED] (Figure 12). Route 964 has been open to light vehicular traffic since at least [REDACTED] 25X1D

25X1D

25X1D

[REDACTED]  
NPIC Cable Cite 2702, DTG 120037Z, Jan 68, Ser F00560  
NPIC Cable Cite 3043, DTG 170144Z, Feb 68, Ser F00626

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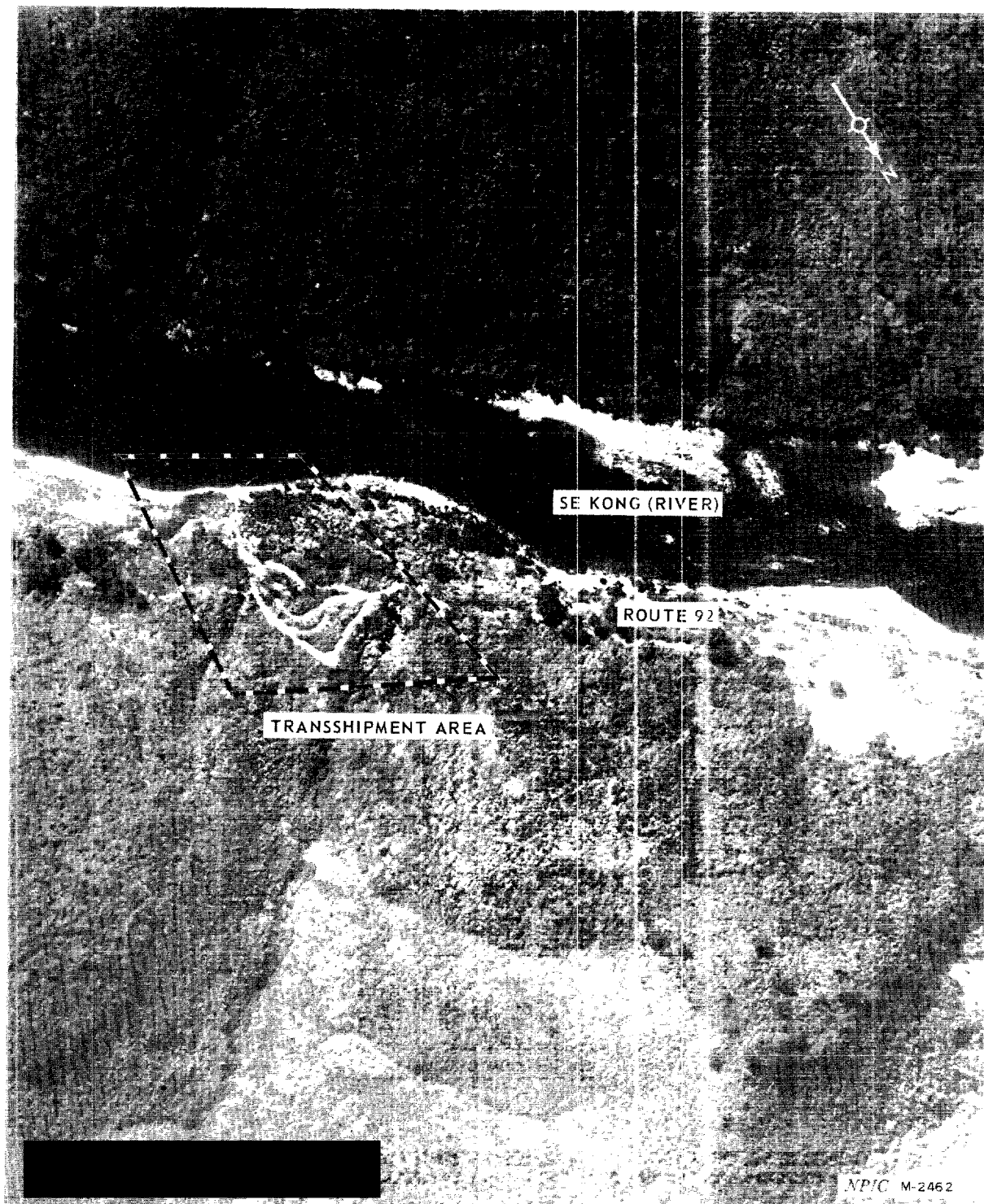
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SHEET ND 48-4  
2ND EDITION, 1965  
SCALE 1:250,000

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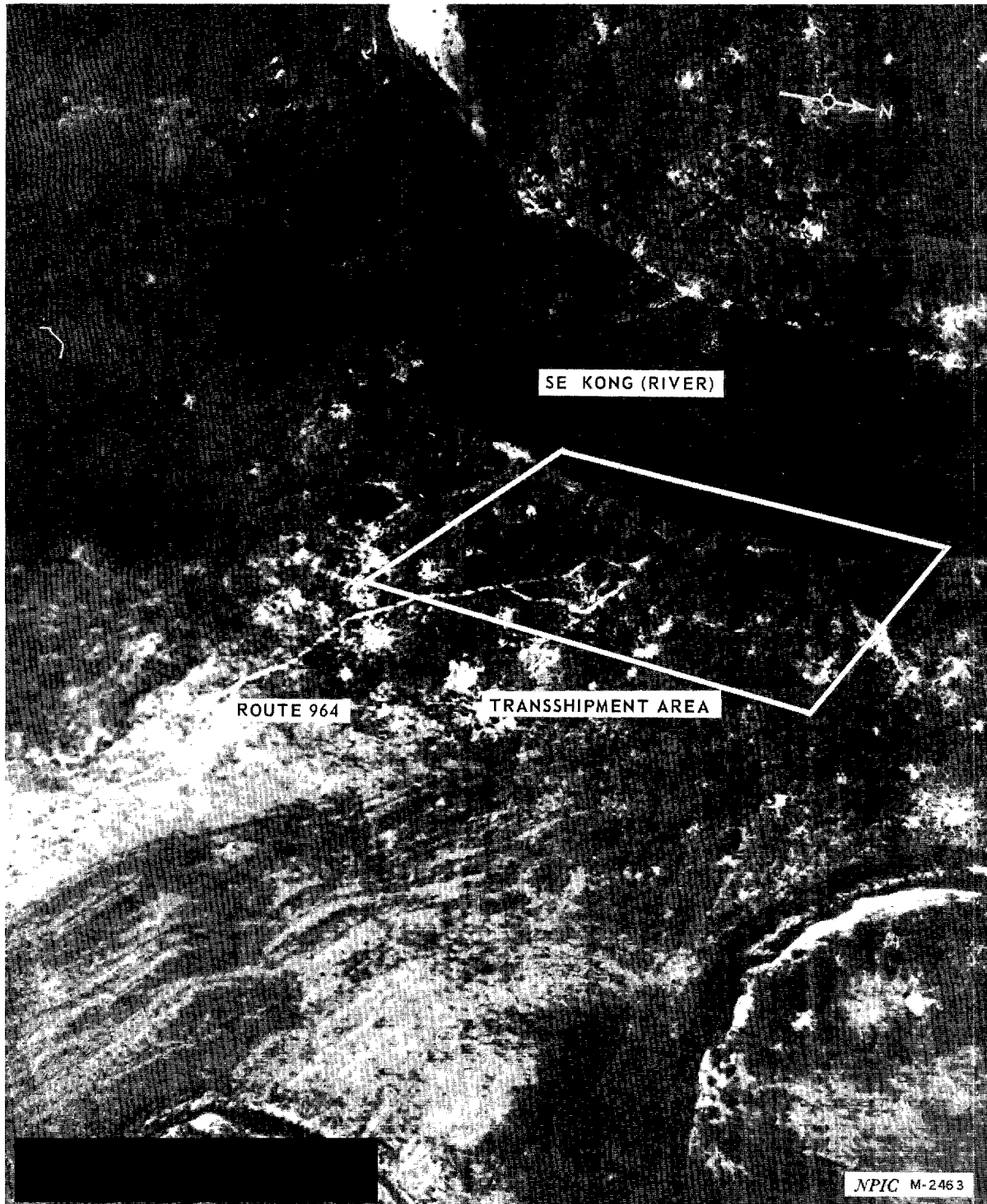
FIGURE 11. TRANSSHIPMENT POINT, SE KONG ROUTE 92, LAOS

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25X1C



25X1D

FIGURE 12. TRANSSHIPMENT POINT, SE KONG/ROUTE 964, LAOS

25X1C



6. By-pass Completion and River Crossing Status, Ban Bac, Laos

A completed by-pass road and six river crossings are observed in the Ban Bac area. The short connecting road between Route 924 at 15-50N 106-45E [REDACTED] and Route 92 at 15-50N 106-46E [REDACTED] will by-pass a frequently interdicted chokepoint on Route 924. The road was under construction on [REDACTED] (compare Figures 13 and 14).

River crossings in the area include ferry crossings at [REDACTED] (Figure 15), [REDACTED] (Figure 16), a reactivated, constructed ford at [REDACTED] (Figure 17), and a probable ford at [REDACTED]. The western ferry crossing (Figure 15) was under construction on (Summary No. 64). A ford at [REDACTED] is in disuse.

A small truck park is located south of Route 92 at [REDACTED] and an active transshipment point is located at [REDACTED] on the southern end of Route 92 (see Item 5).

NPIC Cable Cite 2665, DTG 060027Z, Jan 68, Ser F00555

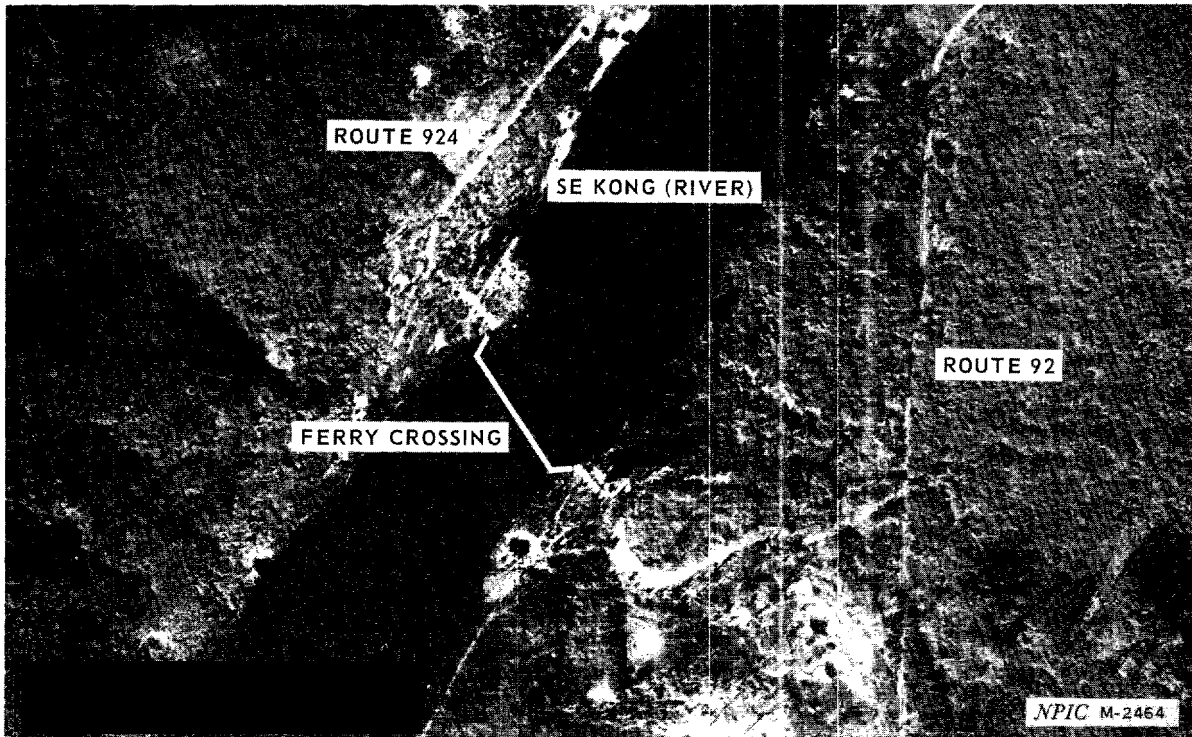


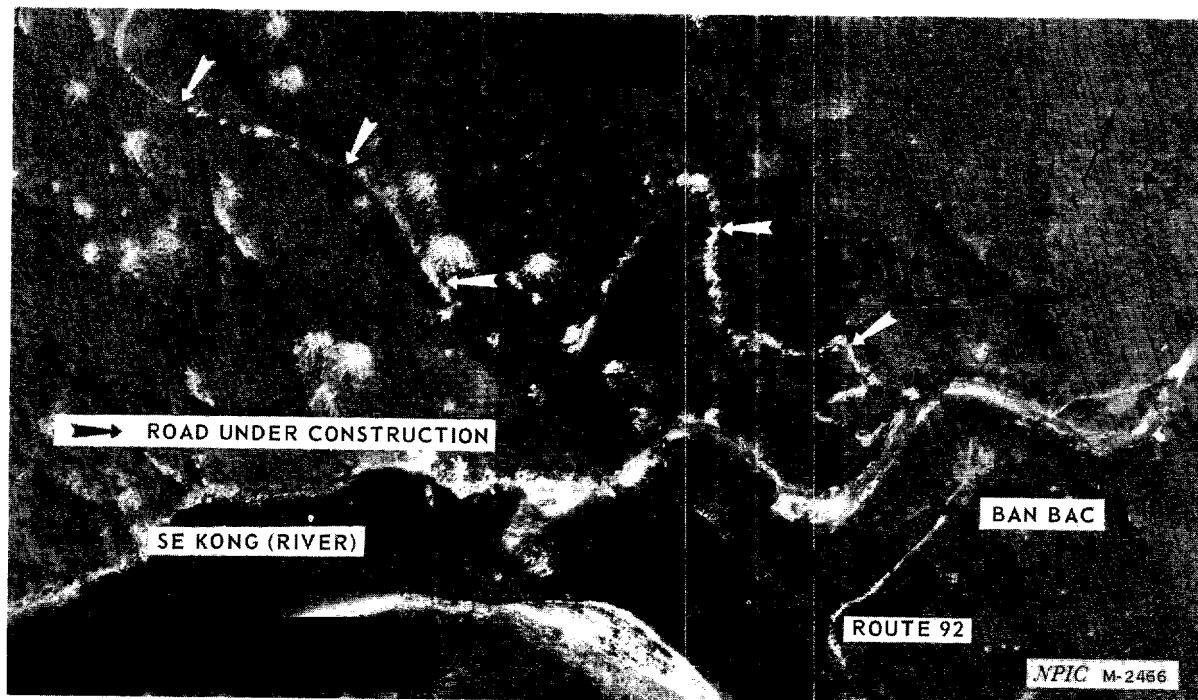
FIGURE 15. FERRY CROSSING, BAN SALOU AREA, LAOS

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25X1D



25X1D

FIGURE 13. BY-PASS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, BAN BAC, LAOS

25X1D

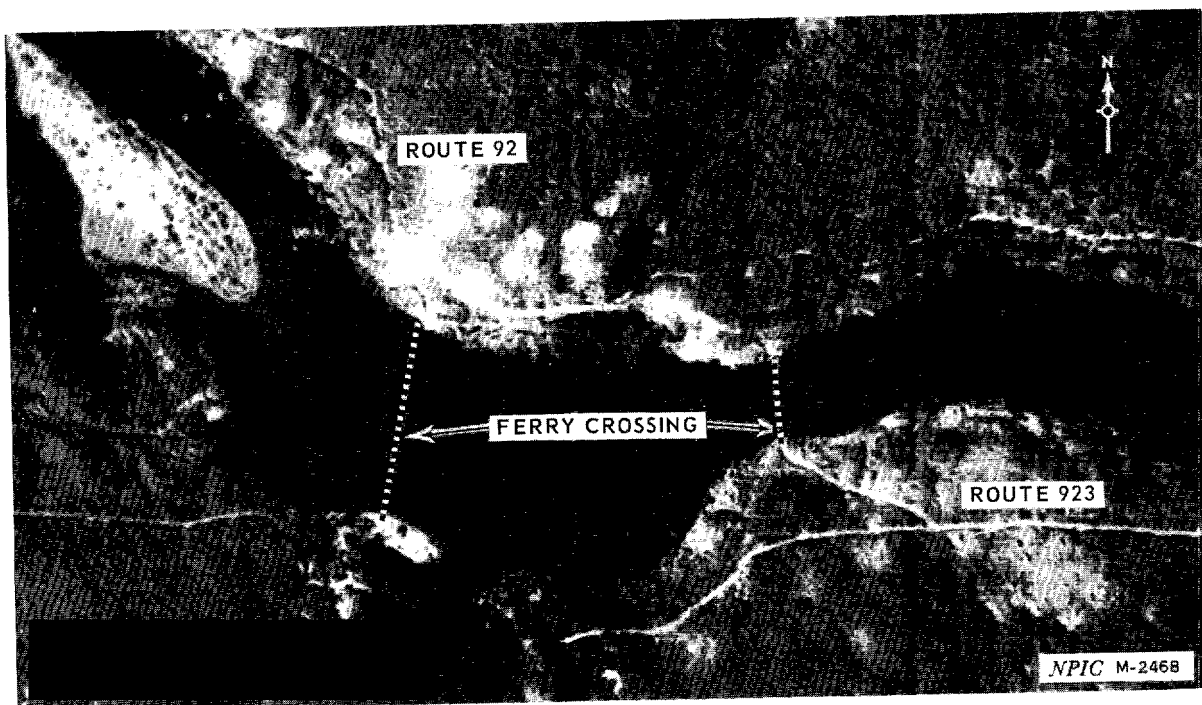


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FIGURE 14. COMPLETED BY-PASS, BAN BAC, LAOS

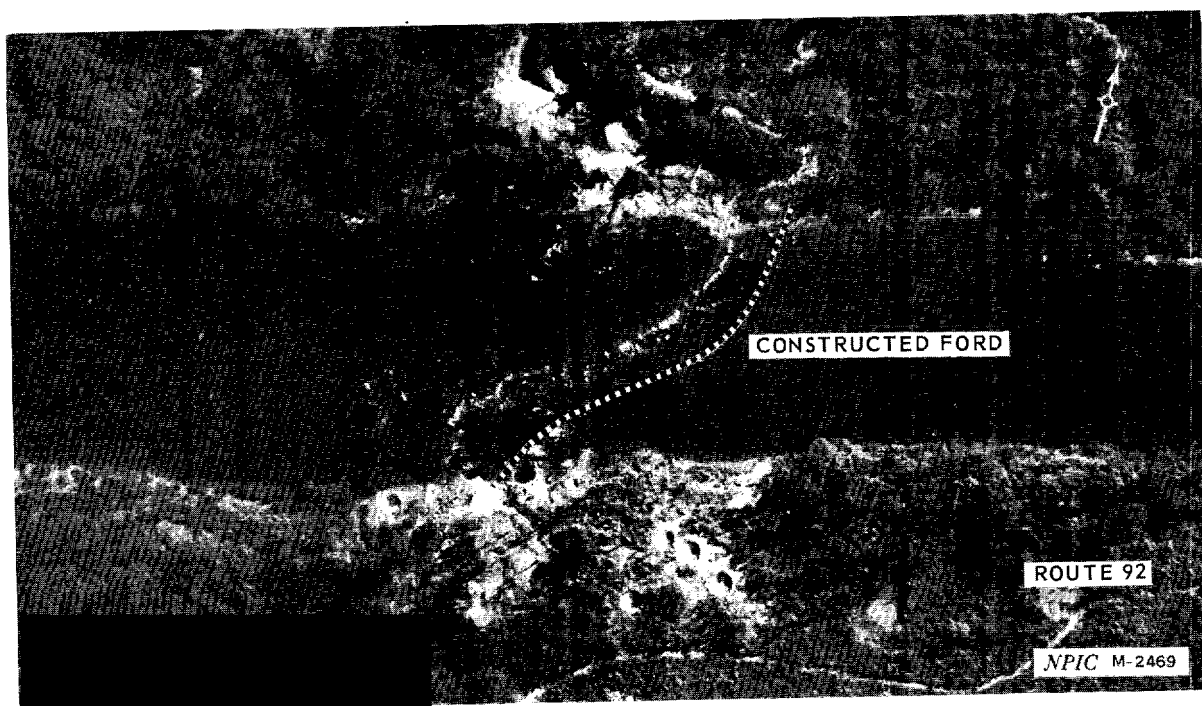


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25X1D

FIGURE 16. FERRY CROSSINGS, BAN BAC AREA, LAOS



25X1D

FIGURE 17. RIVER CROSSING, BAN BAC AREA, LAOS

25X1C

25X1C

7. Road Construction, Route 165 Area, Laos

25X1D A newly constructed road is intermittently observed extending  
generally eastward from Route 165 near Dak Ray to the Laos/South Vietnam  
25X1D border. Vehicle tracks, which terminated at 15-20N 107-12E ([REDACTED])  
25X1D on [REDACTED] now extend to at least 15-24N 107-32E [REDACTED], the limit  
of cloud-free photography. On [REDACTED] construction terminated at  
15-24N 107-14E [REDACTED] (Summary No. 64). 25X1D

The new road extends from Route 165 near Dak Ray, and follows, in  
places, the alignment of Route 966, a road not carried by NPIC.

Figure 18 shows a ford across the Houay Payou (stream) at 15-25N  
107-21E and Figure 19 is a road segment near the border at 15-27N 107-30E.

25X1D [REDACTED]  
NPIC Cable Cite 2270, DTG 170119Z, Nov 67, Ser F00520  
NPIC Cable Cite 2973, DTG 100019Z, Feb 68, Ser F00608

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SOUTH VIETNAM

LAOS

CONSTRUCTION TERMINUS  
ON 27 OCT 67

FIG 18

(FIG 19)

TERMINUS OF VEHICLE TRACKS  
ON 2 OCT 67

VEHICLE TRACKS  
APPROXIMATE ALIGNMENT

ROUTE 96

ROUTE 165

CHAYANE

DAK RA

AMS SERIES 100 1501  
SHEET NO 4  
2ND EDITION 1965

Page 31

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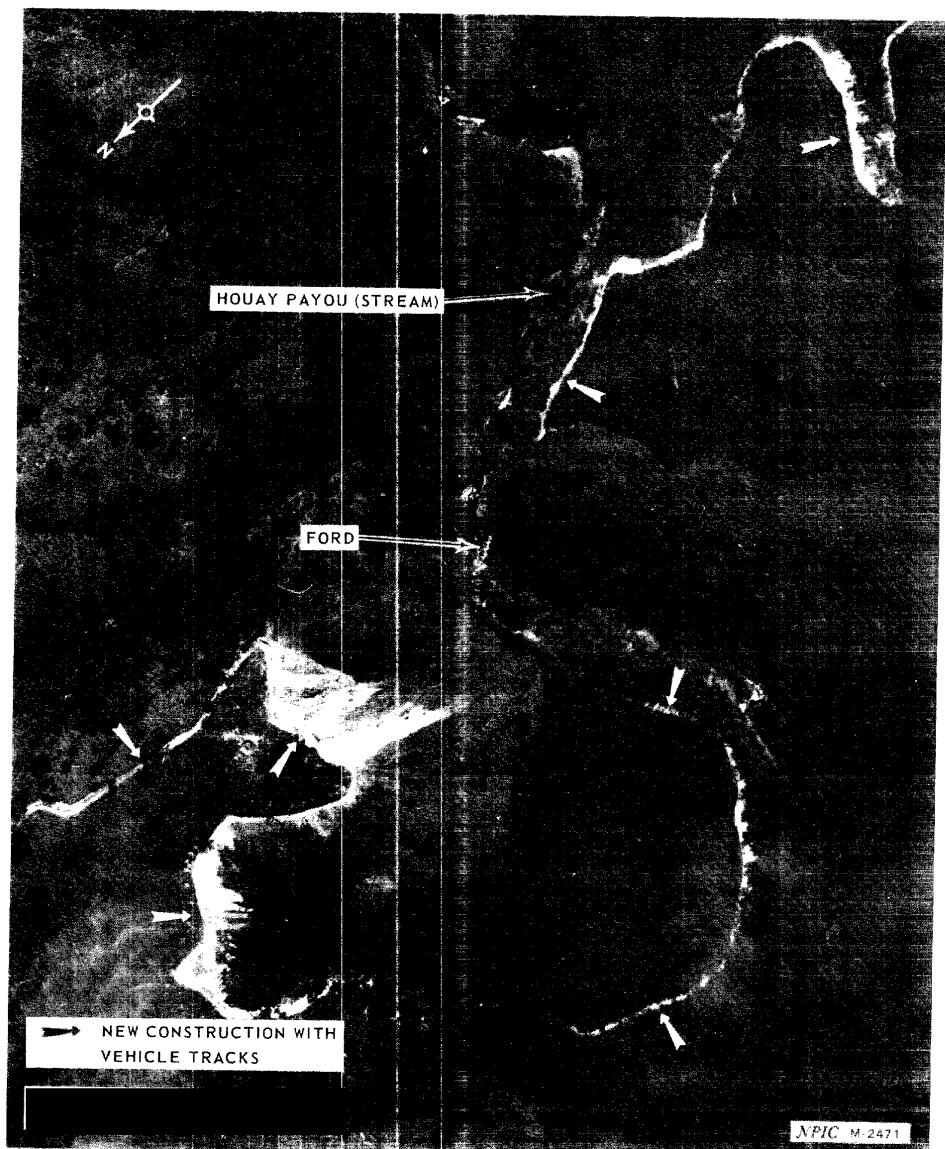
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FIGURE 18. NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND FORD, ROUTE 165 AREA, LAOS

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FIGURE 19. NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION, ROUTE 165 AREA, LAOS

8. New By-passes, Route 96/110 Area, Laos

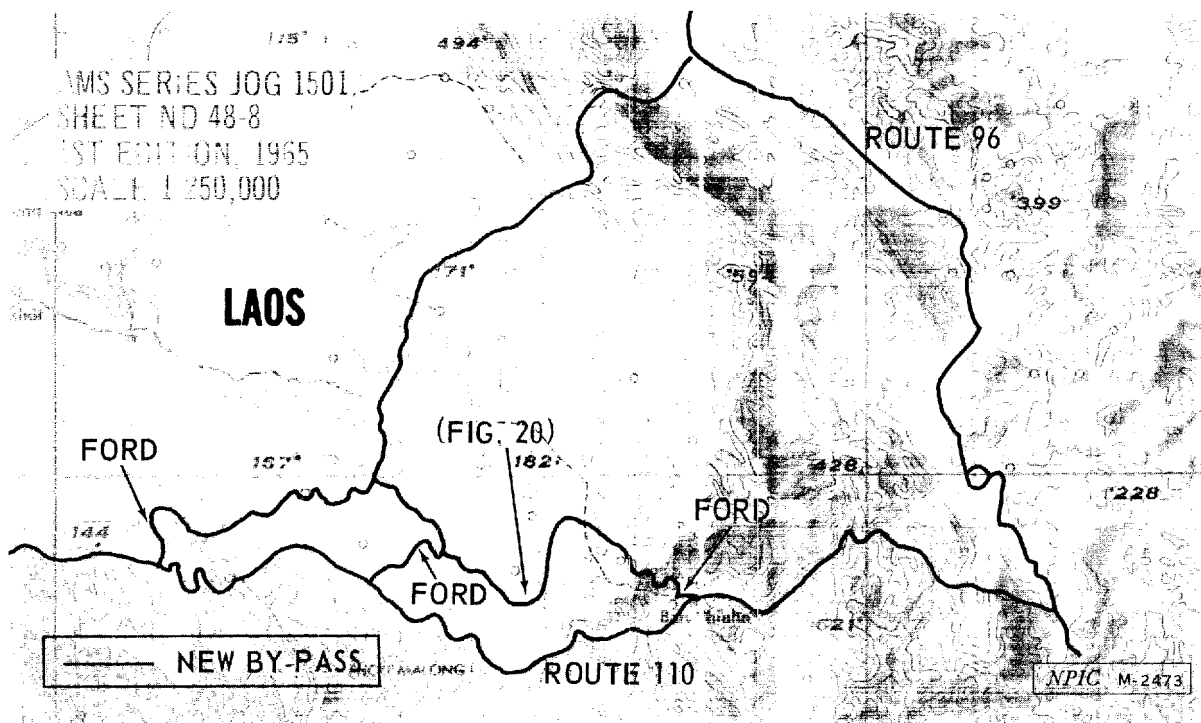
Vehicle tracks are observed on two new by-passes in the Route 96/110 area. The larger by-pass, previously reported as under construction in Summary No. 65, Item 3, extends from Route 96 at 14-52N 107-12E [REDACTED] to Route 110 at 14-43N 107-01E [REDACTED]. It fords the Xe Xou (river) at [REDACTED]

25X1D

The second new road, a by-pass for frequently interdicted points on Route 110, extends from 14-43N 107-05E [REDACTED] to 14-42N 107-11E [REDACTED]. Fords across the Dak Xou (river) are located at 14-43N 107-06E [REDACTED] and 14-42N 107-11E [REDACTED]. Vehicle tracks similar to those in Figure 20 (at 14-42N 107-08E) are intermittently observed along the entire alignment of both by-passes, although in most places the roads are under heavy tree cover.

A short road, probably connecting the two by-passes, is intermittently observed under heavy tree cover between [REDACTED]

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NPIC Cable Cite 3137, DTG 282323Z, Feb 68, Ser F00643







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FIGURE 20. VEHICLE TRACKS ON NEW BY-PASS, ROUTE 96/110 AREA, LAOS

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